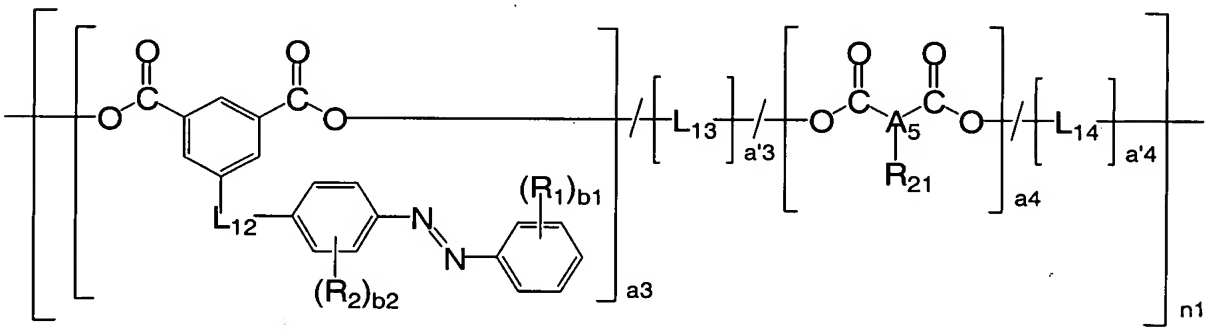
**Amendments to the Claims**:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical recording medium comprising a recording layer which is formed into a predetermined shape with a thickness of 0.1 mm to 5 mm, the recording layer being formed into a plate shape and is sandwiched between a pair of protective substrates, and the recording layer containing ~~mm and which contains~~ a polyester represented by the following formula (1):

Formula (1)




wherein $R_1$ and $R_2$ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent; b1 represents an integer from 0 to 5; b2 represents an integer from 0 to 4; when b1 is 2 or more, a plurality of $R_1$ may be the same as or different from each other and the plurality of $R_1$ may form a ring by being linked with each other; when b2 is 2 or more, a plurality of $R_2$ may be the same as or different from each other and the plurality of $R_2$ may form a ring by being linked with each other; $R_{21}$ represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; $A_5$ represents a divalent linking group when $R_{21}$ is a hydrogen atom, and $A_5$ represents a trivalent linking group when $R_{21}$ is a substituent; $L_{12}$ to $L_{14}$ each independently represent a divalent linking group; a3 represents a number from 0.0001 to 1; a4 represents a number from 0 to 0.9999; a3 and a4 satisfy a3+a4=1; a'3 represents a number from 0 to 1; and a'4 represents a number from 0 to 1; a'3 and a'4 satisfy a'3+a'4=1; and n1 represents an integer from 4 to 2000.

2. (Original) The optical recording medium of claim 1, wherein $R_{21}$ has a mesogen group linked to a flexible spacer group.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) A method of producing an optical recording medium in which a recording layer comprising a photo-responsive polymer material is sandwiched between a pair of protective substrates, the method comprising:

injection molding the photo-responsive polymer material into a plate shape having a thickness of 0.1 mm to 5 mm; and

hot-pressing the molded polymer material sandwiched between the pair of protective substrates so that the molded polymer material is fused with the pair of protective substrates to form an optical recording medium.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the protective substrates are transparent plastic substrates.

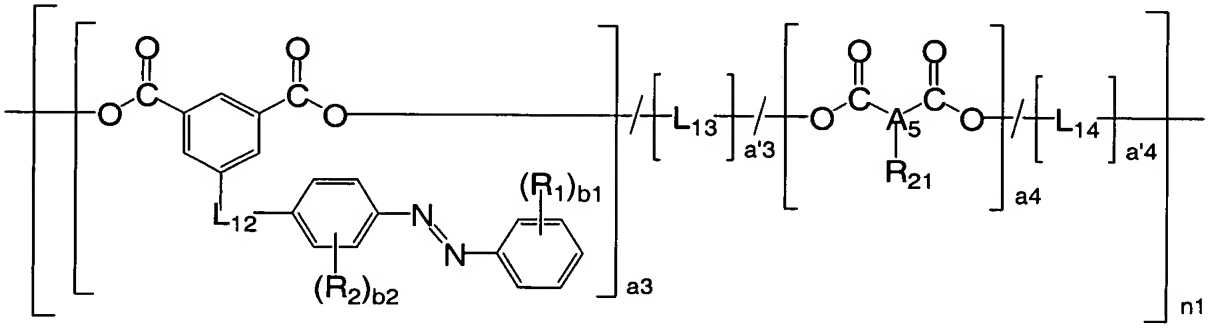
6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the protective substrates have a Tg which is higher than a Tg of the recording layer.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the recording layer is a photo-responsive material that exhibits photo-induced birefringence.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the photo-responsive material comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of a polymer having a photo-isomerizable group on a side chain thereof, a polymer crystal having a photo-isomerizable group on a side chain thereof, and a polymer in which photo-isomerizable molecules are dispersed.

9. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the photo-responsive polymer material contains a polyester represented by the following formula (1):

Formula (1)




wherein $R_1$ and $R_2$ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent; b1 represents an integer from 0 to 5; b2 represents an integer from 0 to 4; when b1 is 2 or more,

a plurality of $R_1$ may be the same as or different from each other and the plurality of $R_1$ may form a ring by being linked with each other; when b2 is 2 or more, a plurality of $R_2$ may be the same as or different from each other and the plurality of $R_2$ may form a ring by being linked with each other; $R_{21}$ represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; $A_5$ represents a divalent linking group when $R_{21}$ is a hydrogen atom, and $A_5$ represents a trivalent linking group when $R_{21}$ is a substituent; $L_{12}$ to $L_{14}$ each independently represent a divalent linking group; a3 represents a number from 0.0001 to 1; a4 represents a number from 0 to 0.9999; a3 and a4 satisfy a3+a4=1; a'3 represents a number from 0 to 1; and a'4 represents a number from 0 to 1; a'3 and a'4 satisfy a'3+a'4=1; and n1 represents an integer from 4 to 2000.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein $R_{21}$ has a mesogen group linked to a flexible spacer group.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an optical recording medium having a recording layer comprising a photo-responsive polymer material, the method comprising:

forming the photo-responsive polymer material into a plate shape having a thickness of 0.1 mm to 5 mm by hot-pressing, wherein the recording layer is formed independent of a substrate; and

using the formed polymer material to produce an optical recording medium, wherein the optical recording medium has no substrate.

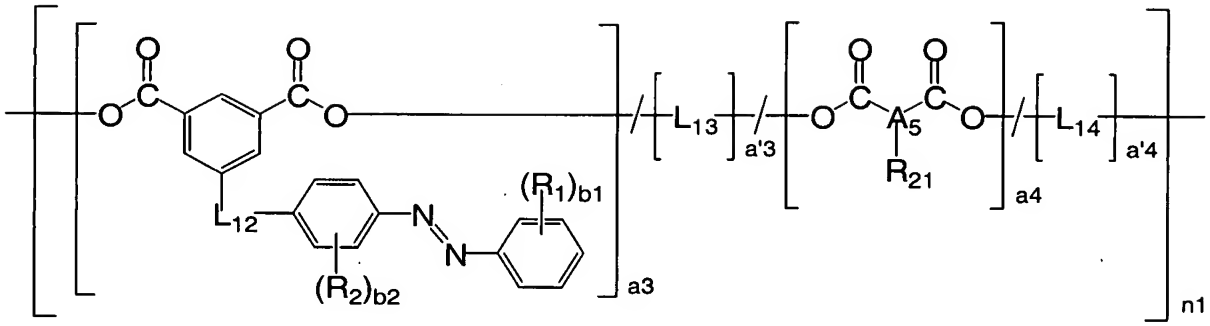
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the recording layer comprises a photo-responsive material that exhibits photo-induced birefringence.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the photo-responsive material comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of a polymer having a photo-isomerizable group on a side chain thereof, a polymer crystal having a photo-isomerizable group on a side chain thereof, and a polymer in which photo-isomerizable molecules are dispersed.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the optical recording medium further comprises a protective layer or an antireflection layer.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the photo-responsive polymer material contains a polyester represented by the following formula (1):

Formula (1)



wherein $R_1$ and $R_2$ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent; b1 represents an integer from 0 to 5; b2 represents an integer from 0 to 4; when b1 is 2 or more, a plurality of $R_1$ may be the same as or different from each other and the plurality of $R_1$ may form a ring by being linked with each other; when b2 is 2 or more, a plurality of $R_2$ may be the same as or different from each other and the plurality of $R_2$ may form a ring by being linked with each other; $R_{21}$ represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; $A_5$ represents a divalent linking group when $R_{21}$ is a hydrogen atom, and $A_5$ represents a trivalent linking group when $R_{21}$ is a substituent; $L_{12}$ to $L_{14}$ each independently represent a divalent linking group; a3 represents a number from 0.0001 to 1; a4 represents a number from 0 to 0.9999; a3 and a4 satisfy a3+a4=1; a'3 represents a number from 0 to 1; and a'4 represents a number from 0 to 1; a'3 and a'4 satisfy a'3+a'4=1; and n1 represents an integer from 4 to 2000.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein $R_{21}$ has a mesogen group linked to a flexible spacer group.

17. (New) An optical recording medium having a recording layer comprising a photo-responsive polymer material being formed into a plate shape having a thickness of 0.1 mm to 5 mm, wherein the optical recording layer is formed independent of a substrate, and wherein the optical recording medium has no substrate.

18. (New) The optical recording medium of claim 17, wherein the recording layer comprises a photo-responsive material that exhibits photo-induced birefringence.

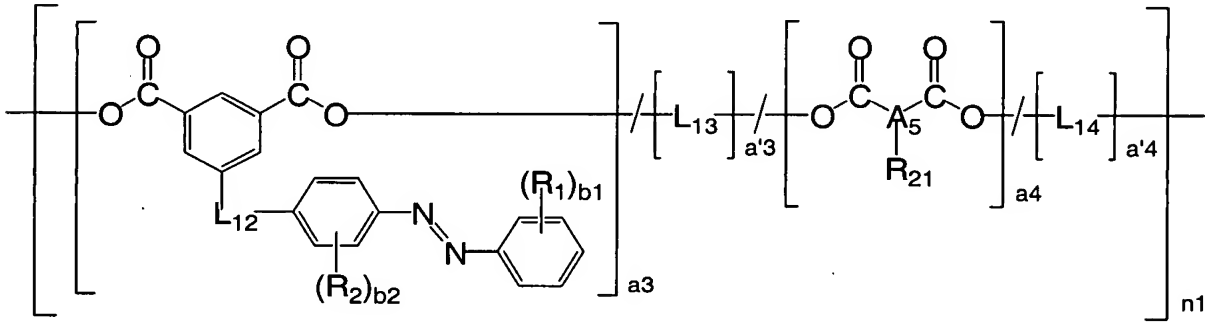
19. (New) The optical recording medium of claim 18, wherein the photo-responsive material comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of a polymer having a photo-isomerizable group on a side chain thereof, a polymer crystal having a photo-

isomerizable group on a side chain thereof, and a polymer in which photo-isomerizable molecules are dispersed.

20. (New) The optical recording medium of claim 17, wherein the optical recording medium further comprises a protective layer or an anti-reflection layer.

21. (New) The optical recording medium of claim 17, wherein the photo-responsive polymer material contains a polyester represented by the following formula (1):

Formula (1)




wherein $R_1$ and $R_2$ each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; b1 represents an integer from 0 to 5; b2 represents an integer from 0 to 4; when b1 is 2 or more, a plurality of $R_1$ may be the same as or different from each other and the plurality of $R_1$ may form a ring by being linked with each other; when b2 is 2 or more, a plurality of $R_2$ may be the same as or different from each other and the plurality of $R_2$ may form a ring by being linked with each other; $R_{21}$ represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; $A_5$ represents a divalent linking group when $R_{21}$ is a hydrogen atom, and $A_5$ represents a trivalent linking group when $R_{21}$ is a substituent; $L_{12}$ to $L_{14}$ each independently represents a divalent linking group; a3 represents a number from 0.0001 to 1; a4 represents a number from 0 to 0.9999; a3 and a4 satisfy a3+a4=1; a'3 represents a number from 0 to 1; and a'4 represents a number from 0 to 1; a'3 and a'4 satisfy a'3+a'4=1; and n1 represents an integer from 4 to 2000.

22. (New) The optical recording medium of claim 21, wherein $R_{21}$ has a mesogen group linked to a flexible spacer group.